

Table 2.60

Attitudes toward the most important goal of prison

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Once people who commit crimes are in prison, which of the following do you think should be the most important goal of prison?"

	Rehabilitation	Punishment	Crime prevention/ deterrence
National	48.4%	14.6%	33.1%
Sex			
Male	48.6	16.8	30.5
Female	48.2	12.5	35.5
Race, ethnicity			
White	47.7	16.1	31.9
Black	56.4	11.8	30.9
Hispanic	42.3	7.7	42.3
Age			
18 to 24 years	50.7	17.6	29.6
25 to 39 years	47.5	14.3	33.5
40 to 59 years	49.1	13.6	33.2
60 years and older	46.3	16.5	33.5
Education			
College graduate	54.9	11.5	28.5
Some college	50.9	14.5	32.4
High school graduate	40.4	17.1	38.3
Less than high school graduate	47.6	15.3	31.5
Income			
Over \$60,000	53.3	15.7	26.2
\$30,000 to \$60,000	49.3	11.7	36.0
\$15,000 to \$29,999	47.7	15.4	34.4
Less than \$15,000	47.1	18.6	30.0
Community			
Urban	54.2	8.9	31.5
Suburban	46.7	13.9	34.1
Small city	46.1	17.8	33.9
Rural/small town	48.0	16.1	32.8
Region			
Northeast	52.0	17.1	27.4
Midwest	49.6	14.3	34.6
South	44.2	14.7	35.7
West	51.0	13.3	30.9
Politics			
Republican	43.3	14.9	39.0
Democrat	53.8	13.5	30.0
Independent/other	47.5	17.0	31.5

Note: See Note, table 2.10. The "other," "don't know," and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.